

# THE AMERICAN FARMER

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## RAMIE,

Or "Chinese Nettle," "China Grass," "Rhea," Etc.

(Interview with Mr. S. H. Slaughter.)

**T**HE CULTIVATION OF ramie in this country is a very important subject, and probably no one in the United States is more familiar with its value and the various uses to which it can be put, and also its cultivation, than S. H. Slaughter, of San Francisco, Cal., who is now in Washington, D. C., making arrangements to start a factory in the United States to convert the ramie fiber into goods and thus create a market for it, which he claims is necessary to be done before it can be successfully raised in this country.

He says ramie is a species of nettle, but thornless. There are three to five different varieties, all suitable for this climate, but they vary in excellence in the market from one to three cents per pound, the best, which I recommend, being worth six cents a pound net here, in the rough as it comes from the de-corticators, dried and baled.

Decortication itself is of a very simple nature, being to break, strip, or peel the bark from the wood, to separate the woody matter from the bark and fiber, or "ribbons," which must be done as fast as leafed and cut, or on the same day of cutting. It can be done by hand, by flail, treading with horses, or flax break, and shaken out; or, more properly in these days, with a machine run by horse or steam power, and with four to six men working two acres a day, easily. One machine will run through 120 acres in two months, and keep a gang of men busy all the summer through. Ramie will grow in about that time if well supplied with water—irrigation or natural moisture.

Ramie should be cut green when about four or five feet high, and when it first begins to brown at the bottom of the stalks. Ramie will not rot like flax or hemp, and thus must be broken green before the gun or glue sets to the stalks. It should be run from the decorticator on an endless wire carrier through a drier, and baled at the exit for shipping to the factory, where it is, by processes, cleaned and ungummed and prepared for carding and spinning. It is excellent to knit or weave into goods of superior quality, pure or mixed with wool, for casimires, woolsen and worsted fabrics.

Ramie fiber is of a very firm texture, and of uneven lengths, from two to six inches, or three to nine inches. It is a flat, hollow ribbon, and thus takes dyes in all shades of the brightest colors, as well as silk. It is not of such a glossy nature as common silk, but partakes of what is called dead silk in black, which all ladies know is most desired in expensive goods. Silk is wound of the cocoons from 800 to 1,000 yards long, and doubled in the winding seven strands; while ramie, being short, must be combed or carded and spun like raw silk, or broken silk, and therefore is not mixed with fine silk in the way sometimes spoken of, but made into thread, is used to mix in the body, the strongest parts needed. For the warp or filling, and sometimes for the body of the goods, silk may be used for the raised glossy figures or flowers, giving a beautiful contrast and exquisite shading. In wool mixtures it can be cut or graded to the even lengths and combed or carded and spun as a complete mixture, benefiting the wool by its superior strength, gloss, and finish, the wool making the nap and warmth, the ramie, alone, being porous and cool for summer wear.

Ramie is not adapted to be worked on loom, hemp, cotton, or jute machinery. It is estimated that some \$30,000,000 worth of worsted and much more wool and woolen goods, as well as of \$19,000,000 worth of silk, is imported into the United States annually. Ramie fiber, that can be grown in this country, can take the place mostly of this and largely with our own product of wool and silk equal or excel much of it in durability and finish, besides for all other purposes in ramie goods pure, mixed silk, and other ways. I have no doubt, to amount to much more. There is no end or limit to the possibilities, apparently, of the uses to which it can be put. Why should we not hasten to reap the direct benefit as well as the incidental impetus it would give to all other enterprises, employments, and home market?

Ramie is now grown in China, Japan, India, Mexico, Cuba, Hawaii, Samoa, West Indies, Guatemala, Columbia, and Brazil, and (in the United States), in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, California, and Washington in small quantities. It is also grown in South

France, Italy, and Hungary. It is worth in China \$50 to \$80 per ton, cleaned by hand. This is done there by scraping the pellicle off the outside of the stalk, cut green, then peeling the bark, and with a bamboo stick rubbing out the mucilaginous gummy matter over a log, and repeated boiling, washing, and drying on scaffolds or roofs of their houses. For export, it is only partially ungummed. For their hand weaving they strip this partially ungummed fiber into threads as long as possible, containing, of course, thousands of fibers held together with gum, (saving the operation of combing and spinning,) which they fasten, stick or tie together end to end, making long threads in imitation of silk, which they weave into goods by hand, then boil and bleach out and color in the piece.

This primitive way of working, which can only be done with the cheapest of labor, has deceived most of our experimenters into the belief that the fibers were long as the stalk, like flax and hemp, when in fact they are hollow ribbons or veins, running between the leaves, of different lengths, according to growth of stalk, from two to six, or three to nine inches, and run from the bark to the wood all the way along up, making it such an enormous grower. Want of knowledge of this, of course, prevented success in their making machinery to prepare it to manufacture. But now that we have scientifically investigated the fibers before we undertook to build machinery, and found out just

about an inch, or let it come almost or quite to the surface if the ground is not mellow and sandy and is moist to the surface, or liable to bake. Cultivate well between the rows until the sprouts are up two or three feet high, when layer out to cover the ground in a bed four feet wide, leaving a space two feet wide between the beds to use and cultivate, from which you can procure roots, that spread out into these spaces, to re-plant or sell, without disturbing the beds. You will find it will pay you for some years to come to raise roots to sell, as a little demand will absorb all now on hand, and I have no doubt the price will double or treble before the rush is supplied.

The first crop after layering can be cut with sickle by hand, and all the poor or branchy shoots can be layered to fill up any vacancies, or cut into cuttings and planted like grapevine cuttings.

Now these two-foot paths can be kept open and used for cultivation, or, after the four-foot beds have become solid, can be allowed to spread full.

I advise this plan, as a four-foot bed can be grown solid thick sooner than six feet, and after that can be easily extended. When roots become plentiful and cheap you can plant thickly all over the ground at first planting if you choose. It will take to plant an acre this way 2,500, 6 feet by 3 apart, or 7,500, 6 feet by 1 apart, making the first cost enough on a large scale, and with layering and cuttings will soon

be returned with little trouble, so that nothing but the pure fiber need be taken permanently away.

Now, if an overgrown stalk should be cut, weighed and burned to estimate the loss, the result multiplied by the number supposed to be on an acre, it might be that "50 tons per acre" might be estimated, which would give a very erroneous impression from the real facts. I think the leaves and wood being returned, might add to the soil, together with irrigation and the air, all, or nearly all, removed in the fiber, and possibly more, in some cases at least. Something is taken from the air and water, and more brought up from the subsoil, or below. At any rate, I have seen as fine stalks on 10, 15 and 20-year-old-grown patches of ramie (that I have been told had not been fertilized and not much watered) as I could wish to raise. About five tons green stalks can be expected off an acre each cutting, making a thousand or more pounds of fiber, or three or four thousand pounds in a season of three or four cuts.

Ramie fiber must not be bleached before sold to or used in the factory, as it needs different treatment for different uses, and you must not be deceived by long, fine, bleached or unbleached samples, as there is no practicability in them. Ramie is not ungummed if long, and cannot be used in that condition except by hand, and then must be prepared, while green and fresh, by hand. We want no hand work, and cannot compete with foreign labor in that way. So do not be deceived by gaudy showings.

Bales of it have been made long and shipped from the South, 12 to 20 years ago, and found unsalable for profit to this country, and spoiled for their uses in Europe by hand or otherwise. We want plain, practical, working material.

It must be thoroughly and economically, by two separate processes, cleaned and ungummed in the factory, and then it is as free and pure as wool, camel's hair or alpaca, and cut to even lengths, or separated into two, four and six to nine inch lengths, will comb or card and spin as readily by machinery, and if properly done is of full strength and gloss. The farmer, except for curiosity or satisfaction, does not need to be a manufacturing expert to pass on the machinery or fiber. He simply, necessarily, wants to be satisfied that he can put into bales and sell the raw material, and roots may be, enough for several years to pay him for planting, raising and marketing, as well as or better than anything else he can raise, and that he will get a better market for his other products, and be able to buy a superior article of goods for less money than is possible without it. If he can make \$80 to \$100 per acre on a large number of acres for several or many years, and never less than \$50 clear, and double or quadruple his market, and that at home, instead of chances abroad; get his goods for less than half or one-fourth of the price he now pays; get a genuine, durable article that will wear four times the length of time the adulterated article he now pays a big price for; builds up his country, makes his property valuable, I think is worth a little effort and faith, even if there is a good deal of work and maybe some few mishaps to start with.

### New Way of Raising Potatoes.

The new method of growing potatoes in the South is a valuable innovation on the old way. The first crop, planted in March, is now ripe. Seed from this first crop is planted in July and August. The seed selected is planted in beds thickly, in the same manner as sweet potatoes in the Spring for sets. The cuttings are made quite thin and planted closely in the beds and lightly covered with soil. As soon as they sprout they are planted in trenches and covered lightly with the covering being increased as the plants grow. The vines are left to grow until they are cut by the frost. They are then removed and the ground covered with litter to keep out the frost, and the potatoes are left in the ground until Spring.

This new method is worth millions to the South. It gives to it the whole market for seed potatoes for the future. For this second-crop seed keeps without sprouting until late in June or July, and thus supplies the Summer markets of the North with the best kind of potatoes, uninjured by growing, and crisp as when newly gathered. And, in addition, when taken from the ground in January, they sell in the Northern markets for the prices of Bermuda-grown ones, and are as fresh and better than they are. This is only one of the new resources of the South arising from its mild climate that afford profit to the industrious and enterprising farmers. But it is by no means an insignificant addition to the income of the Southern farmers.—New York Times.

## THE ARMY WORM.

Life and Habits of a Destructive Pest.

L. O. HOWARD, ENTOMOLOGIST.  
(Circular No. 4, Department of Agriculture.)

GENERAL APPEARANCE AND METHOD OF WORK.

**I**N THE MONTHS of May and June, and sometimes as late as July, wheat, oats and other small grains, corn, timothy, blue grass and other grasses, but seldom or never clover, are occasionally over-

run by multitudes of naked striped caterpillars about an inch and a quarter long and a quarter of an inch in diameter, when full-grown, rather dark in appearance and closely resembling Fig. 1. They usually travel in one direction from one field to another, destroying the crop as they go. They have a habit of climbing the seed stalks and cutting off the heads of timothy grass and of the small grains.

**DISTRIBUTION.** The army worm seems to be an indigenous North American insect, and on this continent is most abundant in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. Isolated specimens have been found in England and South America, and the moth has been captured in India, Java, Australia and New Zealand. It is nowhere known as an especially destructive species, however, outside of the United States. The region in which it especially flourishes extends from eastern Iowa to Maine and from northern Texas to northern Alabama. East of the Blue Ridge Mountains its southerly range as an injurious species extends only to northern North Carolina. The moth is often captured outside these limits and frequently in considerable numbers, but the caterpillar does not seem elsewhere to be a factor in agriculture.

The adult insect is a brown moth with a white spot on the center of each fore-wing, as indicated in Fig. 2. The eggs are very minute and white in color, round, and are laid in strings of from two or three to 15 or 20. They are pushed by the ovipositor of the female moth down into the inner base of the terminal leaf sheaths of grasses or grains. (See also Fig. 2.) A strong effort is apparently made by the female moth to conceal them. They are laid most abundantly in the thickest tufts of grass, which customarily spring up in pastures over spots where cattle have dropped. In the vicinity of old fodder stacks the grass usually grows high, and this also is a favorite place for egg-laying. The moths do not confine their egg-laying operations to such localities, however, and the eggs have been found in old cornstalks, thrust under the sheath, and even under the bark of old cedar posts.

The eggs are hatched in from eight to 10 days and the young caterpillars feed for a time in the fold of the leaf, growing rapidly, and finally consuming entire leaves.

Under ordinary circumstances, and when not present in great numbers, the larvae feed mainly at night, and in damp, cloudy weather, remaining hidden during sunny days. In this respect they resemble in habits the closely allied cutworms. They reach full growth in three or four weeks, burrow into the ground, and transform to the brown pupae shown in Fig. 2. In this condition they remain in the Summer time on an average about two weeks, when the moth again appears.

The number of generations each year varies with the climate and the season. There are in the more northern States, two or three generations, and perhaps six in the more southern States.

We have said above that the insect normally feeds by night and hides by day, and to this habit is due the fact that, although the army worm is pres-

ent every year all through the region especially indicated in a previous paragraph, it is only noticed when it becomes excessively abundant, and this occurs usually only at intervals of several years.

With a favorable succession of seasons the insect multiplies in geometrical ratio, and at last becomes so numerous as to necessitate migration for food. It then travels and feeds during both day and night, and it is then that the insect becomes very injurious and that reports of great damage are heard. The insect passes the Winter normally, as do most of the related cutworms, in the half-grown caterpillar or larval condition. In the South it also undoubtedly hibernates as a moth, and there is some evidence that it may pass the Winter occasionally, although exceptionally, in the egg state.

The injurious brood may be the first, second or third. The overwintered larvae may occasionally be so abundant as to attract notice, but in the majority of cases it is the offspring of these overwintered individuals which cause alarm.

In general it may be said that the worms are more apt to make an injurious appearance in a rainy Spring or

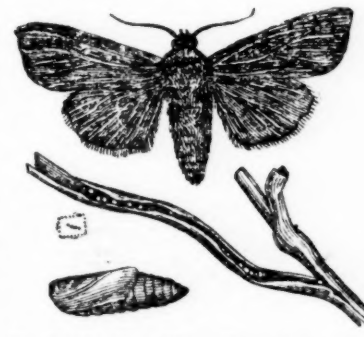


Fig. 2.—The Army Worm (*Leucania unipuncta*): Moth above, pupa below, and eggs in natural position in a grass leaf—all natural size. (From Comstock.)

early Summer following a season of comparative drouth. The present season (1894) bears out these conditions in the Eastern States, and as a matter of fact the army worm has been more abundant in certain Eastern sections than it has been since 1888.

### REMEDIES AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

There is never any demand upon this office for remedies for the army worm until it is almost too late to do any immediate good. There are certain old-time measures which may be adopted to protect certain fields from advancing armies, like the plowing of a furrow with its perpendicular side towards the field to be protected and the subsequent dragging of a log through the furrow to keep the earth friable and kill the worms which have accumulated in the ditch, and another is the sprinkling of a strip of pasture or field crop in advance of an army with Paris green or London purple in solution. In fields which the caterpillars have already entered there is little which can be done for their destruction which does not also involve the destruction of the crop. The fields may be sprinkled by means of a broadcast sprayer with an arsenical solution, or they may be rolled with a heavy roller where one is at hand and the ground is level, or a flock of sheep may be sent in, which will result in crushing most of the worms by trampling.

In the great majority of cases, however, these latter measures are unnecessary, for the reason that nature herself almost always takes a hand in the reduction of the excessive numbers of the insect, either by unfavorable weather conditions or by the excessive multiplication of natural enemies and parasites, so that it is extremely rare that we hear of one army-worm outbreak immediately following another.

In general, therefore, it may be said that, as soon as the worms are discovered to be exceptionally numerous in a given field (and, as a matter of fact, they are at first almost invariably restricted to the immediate neighborhood of some definitely limited, permanent breeding place), all energies should be devoted to the protection of the surrounding crops by the means mentioned above, and the destruction of the worms in the fields first attacked may be safely left to the last.

There are many localities in which the army worm is never seen, or, rather, is never known to be injurious, and these localities owe their exemption undoubtedly to the unconscious use of preventive measures. Clean cultivation, rotation of crops, cleaning up fence corners, close pasturage, the burning over of waste grass land in Spring or Fall are all preventive measures of great value, since, where these methods are in vogue, the army worm will never be able to get a migratory start, or, in other words, it never becomes so abundant as to necessitate migration.

Bearing in mind the fact that the insect breeds normally in rank grass, such as is usually found along the

edges of swamps (not in swamps, for the insect must have comparatively dry earth in which to pupate) or in accidentally overfertilized spots in pasture lands, and that it feeds normally only upon true grasses, the farmer who has once suffered from army-worm attack may easily prevent its recurrence by Winter burning or by rotation and clean cultivation.

In cases where the worms have already entered a valuable field of wheat before the farmer has become aware of their presence and too late to render ditching of any avail, some little good may be accomplished if the majority of the worms are full grown, or nearly full grown, by the old method of "dragging the rope." Two men, each having hold of the end of a long rope, are sent through the field and the rope is dragged over the heads of the grain. The backward jerk of the stalks jars the caterpillars to the ground, and they are unable to ascend to the heads again for some little time. This a laborious process, however, and has to be repeated almost immediately. It is only to be undertaken where the number of worms in a field is comparatively small, and where these are, as before stated, full grown or nearly full grown, since in this case they will stop feeding and enter the ground in a day or two.

**NATURAL ENEMIES.** There is almost no prominent injurious insect in whose economy natural enemies play a more important part than the army worm. We have said above that in the great majority of cases actual destructive measures against army worms which have once taken full possession of a grass field are hardly necessary. This is because of the fact that generally not more than one worm out of a thousand escapes death from parasitic or predaceous insects. Where the army worm follows its normal habit and feeds only at night, remaining hidden during the day under the surface of the ground at the base of some tuft of rank-growing grass, it is protected from the natural enemies, but when the migratory instinct drives it forth and it perverts its normal habit, causing it to march unprotected during the day, the swift-breeding tachina flies attack it at once, multiply most rapidly, and in connection with its other parasites and with the predatory ground-beetles, reduce its numbers once more to the non-injurious point. We have said this is generally the case; there may be exceptions, but we have never seen one. It is important, however, for the farmer to be able to recognize the appearance of a parasitized worm, as in this way his confidence in the future may be restored.

We show at Fig. 3 the head and front segments of an army worm bearing eggs of the red-tailed tachina-fly (*Vemora leucanior*). The eggs are white, oval, less than one-sixteenth of an inch long, and are glued fast to the skin of the caterpillar, usually on the back of the front segments. From half a dozen to 50 or more of these eggs may be attached to a single caterpillar, and from each hatches a maggot which penetrates the body of the army worm and ultimately destroys it, unless the caterpillar should happen to cast its skin so soon after the eggs are laid that they do not have time to hatch. The adult tachina-fly resembles a rather large house-fly, except that it has a red tip to its abdomen. Hundreds and thousands of these flies are usually seen buzzing about a field infested by the army worm, and their presence should be welcome to the farmer.

The extent of the parasitism of the injurious brood of the army worm may be indicated by two instances from our personal experience. In 1880 we visited a large tract of land planted in

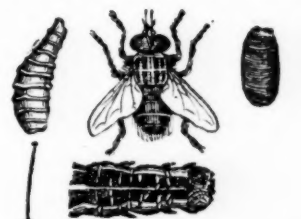


Fig. 3.—The Red-tailed Tachina-Fly, with its larva at left and its puparium at right; below is the fore part of the body of an Army Worm with Tachina eggs attached, somewhat enlarged. (From Comstock.)

timothy grass in the vicinity of Portsmouth, Va. A search for hours during the hot part of the day failed to show a single worm which did not bear tachina eggs. In 1882 we visited wheat fields in the vicinity of Huntsville, Ala., which were then being overrun by this insect. Here, although a number of worms were noticed which did not bear tachina eggs, they were destroyed by ground-beetles to such an extent that when we attempted to catch an adult moth a little later in the season by means of trap lanterns and sugar, we were unable to secure a single specimen.





## Yard Echoes.

An Iowa stock grower says that the "keynote of profitable stock growing and farming can be summed up in one word—clover."

If you have not made provision for a crop to cut green, it is not too late yet to prepare for a drouth. Corn, oats, clover, spring rye and such crops are good.

The man that can improve his stock without introducing new blood proves himself worthy of using the best thoroughbreds that money can buy.

An animal that cannot yield a profit has no place on the farm; and the more a farmer keeps of such the sooner he will mortgage the farm.

## Anthrax.

Anthrax has been known and described for over 2,000 years. "Malignant carbuncle," "blain," "splenic fever," "charbon," and many other names name anthrax. It is caused by the bacilli anthracis, minute, rod-shaped organisms, which multiply with inconceivable rapidity when they once enter the system of sheep, cattle, or other animals. It has been calculated that one bacillus will produce 5,000,000 others inside of 24 hours. Infection comes from the contamination of pastures, water supply, etc., by the excreta of diseased animals.

In different outbreaks, and even in individual cases in the same outbreak, the destructive lesions described vary somewhat in their seat and intensity. In cattle, the intestines, spleen, and liver are usually prominently affected. In some acute cases the brain and central nervous system bear the brunt of the attack, and without premonitory symptoms, the beast, while eating or at work, reels, falls, suffers violent convulsions, or is quickly comatose, and death may occur within a few minutes. Sometimes the mouth and throat are primarily affected, constituting gloss-anthrax, and this form is not infrequently in cattle and common in pigs. Notoriously the disorder most frequently occurs on rich, deep, alluvial soils, often along river banks—situations most suitable for the preservation of the bacteria. The high temperature usual from June to September proves most favorable to the sporulation of such organisms, and hence the prevalence of the disease during Summer and early Autumn. Animals in good thriving state appear specially susceptible to anthrax.

For prevention of the disease in cattle, affected subjects must immediately be isolated, their excretions and the premises they have occupied thoroughly disinfected, and their carcasses, unskinned and unopened, buried in graves at least four feet deep.

## Castrating Calves.

The usual method is for a handy man to place the calves on their buttocks and support them in that position; draw each hind limb so that the hoof is brought up underneath the elbow of the corresponding fore limb, and secure the legs in this position by a strap or piece of rope placed round the cannon bones. The operator, whose hands, knives, and clamps should be cleaned and disinfected by washing with soap and water, and moistening with carbolic lotion, grasps the scrotum so that the testicle is pressed toward the end of the purse, and with a sharp knife makes an incision through the skin and subjacent tissues about one and a half inches to two inches in length, from above downwards and reaching nearly to the point of the scrotum. The protruding testicle is seized, the cremaster muscle divided, and the cord drawn out sufficiently to allow of a pair of wooden or metal clamps being placed around the cord. The clamps are closed, and with a sawing movement of the knife the cord is divided. The clamps are cautiously loosened. In older animals any bleeding is stayed by touching the oozing artery with a red-hot iron. If the six months' calves have been fasted for 12 hours there will, however, be little or no bleeding, nor any untoward effects. Thousands of young calves are castrated, like lambs, without any clamps.

## What Cold Storage Does for the Preservation of Meat.

"Years ago packing could only be done in cold weather; for artificial means of removing the heat, a removal of which is essential to preservation of the meat, were unknown. Nowadays, the outside temperature cuts no figure, and no modern packing house is without its extensive chemical apparatus for artificially chilling the rooms in which fresh meat is stored. These vast rooms are practically air-tight boxes with double walls, floors, ceilings, and doors, packed with some non-conducting material, and a network of pipes of various sizes. Through these pipes a current of brine circulates, chilled by the action of ammonia, and by this agency the temperature may be lowered to any desired degree. In some of the rooms only a moderate temperature is necessary, say, 40 degrees; in others, the temperature must be constantly below the freezing point, and the sight of pipes covered with ice-sprinkles six inches thick, as well as the overroofs and over-sheds of the workmen, tell us that we are in a below-zero atmosphere. In these cold rooms flesh may be preserved untainted for an indefinite time."

## SHEEP AND WOOL.

## Shearings.

The sheep was the only animal selected by the wise Creator of all things as a type of the mediator between fallen man and an offended God.

Wool cannot be grown to the best advantage from the backs of poor sheep any more than good crops of grain can be grown on thin, rundown soil.

Lambs up to the age of 15 months or two years are much more susceptible to the attacks of internal parasites than older sheep, because of the softness and juiciness of their tissues.

The sheep is the only animal that furnishes material year after year, during its life, to clothe the human family, and finally cheerfully gives its body as a most acceptable article of food to its owner.

Unless compelled to raise money by the sale of clips, we would advise putting the wool in a clean, dry place, and quit worrying about it. This is no time to sell wool; it is a time to hold on; after the elections are over values will advance.

Be sure to sow rape on well-prepared soil at any time up to Aug. 15 for the lambs. It grows in six weeks and makes the most complete and reliable pasture for lambs, for ewes being fitted for the ram, and for sheep to go into Winter quarters successfully.

The sheep was the only animal possessing fitting characteristics to be chosen as a symbol of innocence. It is a beautiful tribute that the sheep should be placed "on the right hand," symbolizing the fortunate reception of the righteous in

heard now, and never by men who know what they are talking about. There was a time when some critics condemned the size of the Merino to be too small. These calumniators have been silenced by the preference of the public, who want a carcass of 50 or 60 pounds, with the fat and lean evenly distributed throughout, which the Merino readily furnishes. The market discriminates against the big, fat kidneys and an outer layer of fat that no one eats.

An experienced handler of sheep can tell at a glance what kind of "luck" a flock owner will have at lambing time by looking over the ewes. To such a man the ewe flock reads like a book. If they are scrawny, constipated—a nervous, fussy set, the chances are there will be little if any milk for the lambs, and nothing can be done to save the puny little things, that ought never to have been born into the world. If the ewes are over fat, they will be languid, stupid—a plethoric condition wholly unfit for successful motherhood. On the other hand, if the ewes are in fair condition, bright and alert, calm and content, ready for their rations, strong and vigorous, there need be no apprehensions as the yearling approaches. The lambs will come strong, hungry, and willing; the ewes will become mothers as naturally as buds become flowers. There will be possible mishaps that require the attention and skill of an experienced shepherd, but such instances are rare if the ewe flock has been carefully handled during the latter period of pregnancy. All this will the old shepherd see, though if conditions are bad he will not say much if he is your friend; if he doesn't like you he may tell you the truth.

We think better of Nero. He levied a heavy tax on dogs.

acre of this invaluable food plant and know for himself if it is what he so much needs.

## Rations for Lambs.

The Minnesota Experiment Station gives the following summary of the results of a lamb-feeding experiment:

1. Corn fed with hay produced 20 cents profit per lamb more than barley fed with hay, when corn was valued at \$13.04, barley \$14.52, and hay \$7 per ton, average prices throughout the State at that time.

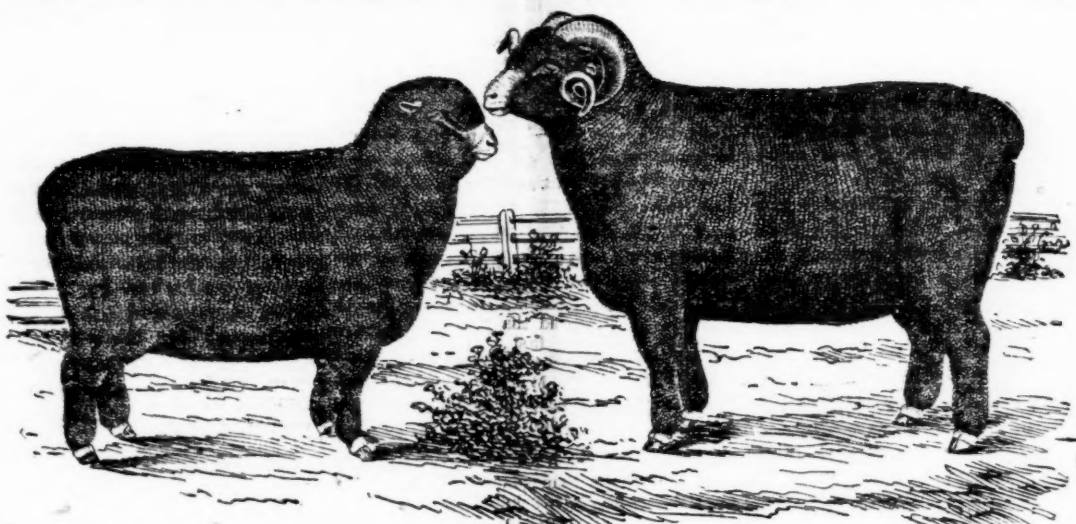
2. When one-tenth oil meal, costing \$27.87 per ton, was added to the grain, the lambs fed corn with hay produced 27 cents profit more each than those fed barley, oil meal, and hay.

3. Rating the profits proportionately on grain and hay according to the cost of the amounts of each fed, the corn fed with hay produced 80 cents per ton more than the barley when fed to lambs.

4. When both were thus fed and with an addition of one-tenth oil meal, about \$2 more per ton was received for the corn than for the barley.

5. With the corn worth \$13 per ton, or 36¢ cents per bushel, the barley was worth, as shown by the lambs, \$12.30 per ton, or 29¢ cents per bushel; the "screenings" (90 per cent. small wheat grains and edible weed seeds), about \$10.35 per ton; the small wheat (90 per cent. small, shrunken wheat), \$10 per ton; the wild buckwheat (90 per cent. wild buckwheat), \$9.56 per ton, and the pigeon grass seed (90 per cent. pigeon grass seed), \$9.40 per ton.

6. The feeding value per ton for sheep may be calculated with fair accuracy by first determining the total percentage of grains of wheat, oats, barley, and edible weed seeds and floury particles of such



Improved Saxony Ram Prize Winner, No. 1, and Improved Saxony Ewe No. 17, Bred and Owned by John G. Clark, Langdon, Washington Co., Pa.

the final reckoning of the human family by the righteous Judge.

Spring time brings so much work that some of the plans and intentions so carefully studied, the results of experience, are likely to be overlooked or, worse yet, crowded out by the routine work of the farm. It is the custom of most farmers to "get around to" a thousand and one things "as soon as they can," whether they ever get it done or not. A word must be spoken again for water and shade in the pasture; make big and safe provisions for water, and put the shade for stock up on the higher ground. Let the sheep sheds be so low that colts and cattle cannot go under them and disturb the sheep.

No one can question the statement so often referred to in this paper, that sheep husbandry belongs to agriculture, and must exist in this country so long as agriculture is the prominent industry of the American people. To exist, there must be profit in the business, since there cannot be interest in a business that does not justify the investment of capital and the devotion of time and energy, unless it affords a reasonable remuneration for the same. On this basis the inquiry is, How can a farmer find a way to reasonable profits? The reply would be, By going straight along, watching the corners, keeping close to the front lines in breeds and flock products, and relying upon the natural facilities the market demands, and the skill that experience has brought and made available.

A friend complains that we are saying too much about politics, and wants to know if plain, old-fashioned, practical questions are not of greater importance to the wool grower and stock raiser? In reply we say yes and no. If the threatened legislation was not of such vital significance, so far reaching, so overwhelming and ruinous to the present and future welfare of the live-stock industries of the country, we would gladly confine all discussions to the principles and practices of breeding and managing live-stock. Is it not a fact, though, that stockmen are driven into a corner by politicians, and that they must either contend for their rights or be ruined? We can't see it in any other light, and until these questions are settled, we propose to sound the danger signal as long as there is a hand raised to wrong and ruin the sheep and stock industries of this country, and then quit.

The breeders of Merino sheep are very generally giving prominence to the mutton qualities in selecting and breeding to such characteristics, early maturity and better feeding qualities as are generally approved of the best mutton breeders. It is found that this breed readily responds to all that is required of them. They were always easy keepers, fattened readily when well fed, and as young sheep gave a quality of mutton equal to the world-renowned Southdowns. Many unkind criticisms were indulged in as to the quality of Merino meat, but, human like, these censures were bestowed upon the poorest specimens—old sheep that had passed their usefulness as wool bearers, and in no sense fitted for the shambles. These criticisms are rarely

## Dwarf Essex Rape for Sheep.

More than 150 years ago the English farmer had to look for a more reliable food supply for his flocks and herds than had for centuries been depended upon. With the improvements in this direction began that steady progress in better breeds that made England the headquarters of the best domestic animals in the world. The basis of this was turnips, beets, clover, rape, and a long list of plants some of which the American farmer as yet knows but little about.

The Canadian farmers have taken advanced ground in improved live-stock, not as a whole, but as we now know from the success of a few enterprising spirits whose methods were but little spoken of until very recently. One of these factors was the growing of rape, whereby an advantage was gained which they studiously tried to retain to their own benefit in the culture of sheep, in fattening lambs for the States' markets, in raising stock sheep for the American farmers—in leading the fine stock breeding of this Continent.

We believe the time has come when the farmers of the United States must find not only cheaper feeds, but an ample, uniform supply that partially obviates that severe change from green to dry and from dry to green feed again—a change that stunts the growth and tries the stamina of domestic animals every Spring and Fall, and prevents the highest development of the animals; the certainty of dry weather in the Fall by which pastures are dried up, a shortage of feed when stock lose condition, and young stock become stunted.

The inquiry is often heard, What can be done to save our lambs in the Fall and early Winter? What can be done to prevent the ravages of internal parasites? This subject has really become a serious matter with sheep raisers. It is believed that scientific investigations now in process will give better information than now prevails, but we believe the most hopeful relief must come from a steady food supply in the Summer and Fall that gives that thrifty, vigorous health that overcomes the ever-present parasites.

We know of no plant that can do this so well or so cheap as English Essex Dwarf Rape. It has done for England and Canada what the farmers of this country want. It grows as a catch crop or as a special crop; it gives a large supply of valuable feed for all kinds of stock; it does not require harvesting—in short, it seems to be just what is wanted by the stock farmer to bring his young stock through the Fall and to Winter quarters in good flesh and form.

The inquiry about this plant has increased so much of late, that we wish to again state to readers of THE AMERICAN FARMER that there was a bulletin sent out by the Secretary of the U. S. Department of Agriculture on rape, its uses and culture, one year ago. Every sheep farmer needs this little work and will get it by writing to his Congressman or to the Secretary himself. Ask for the Rape Bulletin, by Prof. Thos. Shaw, of the Ontario Agricultural Experiment Station, published in 1893.

We ask every sheep raiser to try an

grains and seeds, and giving this three-fourths the value of corn or barley at ruling prices. If there are present enough mustard, pig weed, or other bitter weed seeds to make the flavor decidedly bad, a less valuation must be made on account of less feeding value. Seeds of noxious weeds also count against the value of the sample, as the manure will scatter them on the farm unless special care be used. The straw, chaff, pieces of weeds and other similar materials, forming a larger or smaller part of the screenings, have little value on the farm where roughage is very cheap, and hardly need be taken into account.

7. It paid well to feed one-tenth oil meal in the grain rations, both when feeding corn and when feeding barley.

8. The pens of lambs which made the most clear profits in increased value above cost of grain and hay at prices named in table, were those fed cracked corn with one-tenth oil meal and those given a fairly good sample of wheat screenings. The pen-fed barley gave the least profits per head.

## Manure and Fertilizers.

With ordinary farm or stable manure, it will generally pay to use some potash for corn; 125 to 150 pounds of muriate of potash has given profitable results.—Prof. Brooks, Massachusetts Agricultural College.

Very true, farmyard manure is rather one-sided, having an excess of nitrogen, and a vast amount of organic matter, which will keep up nitrification in the soil, but is deficient in potash. But we have long been of the opinion that the cumulative process of indirect fertilization for all of the ordinary grain sale crops of the farm is decidedly better than to apply these manures and fertilizers directly to the sale crop. And then the effort to help out the deficiency in the stable manure by adding potash to it, while good in itself, is rather an uncertain and indefinite practice, and makes the proper distribution of the potash difficult. The corn crop is always better if planted upon a buried sod, and the sod is always better if manured the year before it is buried. The place for all the manural accumulation of the farm is on a sod that is to be plowed for corn the following year. The sod is helped, and gives better results during that year and the manure is gotten into better condition to feed the ensuing corn crop than if applied firstly to it. The sod needs the potash, too, and should get it all over. So after putting all the manure you can make on the sod, give it in addition all the potash and phosphoric acid you can afford. They will not get away from you. The wonderful absorptive power of the soil will hold them for the future crop, and the well-fed sod will give you a bigger crop of corn for it. With that increased mass of organic matter, the process of nitrification will go on rapidly through all the hot weather, during which corn makes its growth, and whatever nitrogen may have escaped in part dressing the sod will be made up many times over. I would advise the use of not less than 200 pounds of muriate of potash per acre on the sod, and that the home-made manure be made to stretch as far as possible. The manure can be hauled out on the sod all Summer as fast

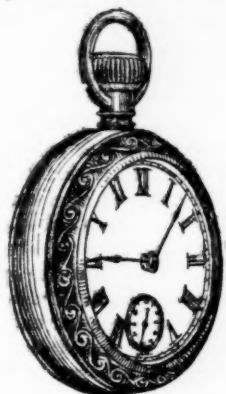
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7. Statue of Peter the Great, St. Petersburg.
8. Natives of Australia Fishing.
9. Native Street in Ceylon.
10. Arlington Cemetery, Arlington, Va.
11. In the Towns of Iceland, Canada.
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as made, and thus save the enormous waste of leaving it in the yard, and the hurry-scurry to get it on land to be planted in the Spring.

Use your manure and your fertilizers to feed a sod and trust the sod to feed your crops, and you will never be disappointed.—W. F. MASSEY.

## Egyptian Cotton.

The rapidly-increasing importation of Egyptian cotton into this country is attracting much attention. It is claimed to be the result of planting American Sea Island cotton seed on the banks of the Nile. Its color is light brown, and the fiber is fine, soft, and lustrous. It is very long; the fiber of Sea Island cotton sometimes reaches two inches, while that of ordinary American cotton is about one inch. Egyptian cotton averages about an inch and a quarter. It has altogether superseded lisle thread, and made extensive inroads upon the use of Sea Island cotton, as it is much cheaper. It is used for Balbriggan underwear and hosiery, for thread and other special objects. The Lambeth Rope Company, of New Bedford, Mass., uses about 1,000,000 pounds a year, and says that it gets better results from it than from any other species of cotton. It is claimed that it cannot be raised at all in this country, but THE AMERICAN FARMER does not believe this for a minute. Now that public attention is being attracted to it, we are certain that in a few years we shall find some part of our 3,500,000 square miles of National domain quite as capable of raising that kind of cotton as Egypt.

The dispute as to the fertilizing value of coal ashes goes on. At first it was felt very decidedly that they could have no manurial value, though they might do some good in a mechanical way by separating the too-tenacious particles of the soil. Now it is thought that they may be richer than supposed in phosphoric acid, and that their alumina may have some value not quite understood.

The New York Experiment Station estimates that the farmers of that State lose the enormous sum of \$50,000,000 a year, or nearly \$1,000,000 a week, in the liquid manure that they allow to run to waste.

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## THE APIARY.

## Humming.

Thick top-bars are needed to make white sections.

The Canadian Government will establish an apicultural department at the experiment farm at Ottawa.

Small after-swarms or casts may now be taken which have but a small amount of comb. These may be able to secure enough stores for cold weather, if returned to the parent colony.

The prospect for a honey harvest is very flattering in the North. The impulse for swarming, which has been strong, is an indication of good supplies, vigor, and much breeding.

When honey is capped and sealed it should be removed at once if a fine appearance is desired. If left to the bees it will improve in flavor and quality, but at the expense of discoloration.

Thick-top bars have a great advantage over the old thin-top bars. The latter, when filled full of capped honey, are very difficult to handle, but with the former it is not necessary to run the fingers into the honey when handling.

Queens can be reared only in the months from May to October, and the drone is practically useless at all other times of the year except these months. There are two broods of drones reared each year in prosperous colonies; the first in May and the second in August.

If bees refuse to leave sections there is either a queen or brood in the sections. Investigation should be made at once, and the brood, which will be drawn, can be fed to the chickens and the surrounding honey extracted. If a queen is there return her to the hive.

The date of the next annual convention of the N. A. B. K. A. is Oct. 16-18, at St. Joseph, Mo. The President, Mr. Emerson Y. Abbott, of that place, would like to hear immediately from those who will attend, and he will thus be aided in getting reduced rates.

Do not be so careless as to allow bees to get water from the horse and cattle trough. Take a small, clean grocery box without a cover and set it on an empty hive in the middle of the apiary. Keep water for the bees in it, and if it leaks a little they will like it all the better.

It is recommended to dip the fingers in vasoline or a little grease, just before starting to work among the bees, and the fingers will be kept clean of propolis, which at this time of year has a way of sticking to everything. When going back to replenish the smoker dip the fingers again and the stains will be kept off.

The honey season is varied this year. In the South it has been excellent. In southern California it is almost a failure. In different States there are different degrees of the honey flow. In northern Ohio the bees wintered well and are now in the condition, but as yet few swarms have appeared. The honey is slow in accumulating.

Dr. Miller asks in *Gleanings* if there is a better way of ventilating hives, any way, than the old-fashioned way of raising the hive by a block under each corner in Summer. He also says that an excellent place to keep combs is under a hive containing a colony of bees, as they will take care of them even if not deluged to go down through the combs.

Some inexperienced beekeepers have an idea that pollen and other substances bees carry on their legs are used by them in the construction of comb. Bees do sometimes carry wax on their legs, and it is used by them in the construction of comb, but such wax is taken from pieces of comb found sticking to old hives, or from comb found somewhere in the apiary but far from the hives.

Mark those hives that are weak in number, and substitute their queens at the earliest opportunity. None but good queens should be kept over. Honey has not escaped the tariff reformers. Surely beekeepers ought to be alive to their own interests, and not succumb to a policy that will put the beekeepers of Ohio and South America on an equal footing with those of the United States.

Give plenty of comb room, and then extract closely. Probably not one colony in 20 will offer to cast a swarm tented in this way. In fact, very few colonies will offer to swarm when tiered up for extraction, and the extracting not done till the end of the season, providing that empty comb room is given as fast as needed. But when working for comb honey the case is different, and the bees are almost sure to swarm, no matter how much section room is given, or whether these sections are filled with foundation or not.

Some have wondered what to do with swarms, who do not wish to increase their stock by a lot of weak colonies. By the use of smoke, swarms from the same hive will readily unite. If later any are too strong by being crowded they should be divided, with an extra queen. Put the caged queen over the frames of an empty hive, moving the old hive to be divided to another locality, and putting the empty one with the caged queen in its place, and thus a new combination will be the result. From custom and instinct a goodly portion of bees from the old hive will rush into the new hive, find, liberate, and adopt the new queen, and thus make up a colony all of their own election.

## COMPLIMENTS.

I feel a great many things in THE AMERICAN FARMER, each of which is worth much more than the year's subscription.—D. MAGNUS, Battle Creek, Mich.

## Feeding Swarms.

Many beekeepers make it a point to feed swarms for the first few days after hiving. This saves the bees work, enables the majority to stay at home and keep up the temperature of the hive. The consequent saving of heat helps the wax-builders to construct their combs, of which fact the queen will take advantage. It also helps the nurse bees to raise the brood, as each individual bee being properly fed will give off more heat, and by helping the wax-builders more comb is built in the time, and no space provided for stores.

## Poison Honey.

EDITOR AMERICAN FARMER: I would like to hear what THE AMERICAN FARMER friends have to say as to what causes bees to make poison honey. My bees have made poison honey this year, and my family have nearly all been poisoned. The honey is nice, white, and sealed, but is very poisonous; a single mouthful being sufficient to cause one to vomit. Will some one please explain.—JAMES G. WISEMAN, Spear, N. C.

## A Collection of Cakes.

## LEMON COOKIES.

Four eggs, two cups white sugar, one cup butter, one teaspoonful soda, one teaspoonful baking powder, the grated rind and juice of two lemons, flour to roll. Beat the eggs, sugar, and butter to a cream; then add the grated rind and juice of the lemons. Sift the soda and baking powder with the flour. Bake in a quick oven.

## CHOCOLATE CAKE.

Quarter pound chocolate grated and made hot in the oven, quarter pound butter, quarter pound sugar, two and a half ounces flour, three eggs, one teaspoonful baking powder. Mix well as for pound cake, and bake in a moderate oven.—Mrs. R. A. O. Ipswich, S. D.

## CHEAP AND RELIABLE TEA CAKES.

One cup of butter, two cups sugar, half cup of sour cream, three eggs, half teaspoonful of soda; flavor to taste, then add flour to make a smooth dough, roll thin, sprinkle lightly with sugar; bake a light brown.—Mrs. T. W. H.

## GOLD CAKE.

One-half cup butter, one and one-half cups of sugar, one-half teaspoon of milk, two and one-half cups of flour, two teaspoons of baking powder. Mix in order given.—CALIFORNIA GIRL.

## SNOW-DRIFT CAKE.

One-half cup butter, one cup of sugar, one-half cup of milk, the whites of four eggs, one and one-half cups of flour, two level teaspoons of baking powder. Beat the butter to a cream, add the sugar and beat again. Stir in flouring, then alternately milk and flour. Lastly, fold in the well-beaten whites. Bake half an hour. This is not at all expensive, and is easily and quickly made.

## A HANDY CAKE.

Beat two eggs thoroughly; one coffee-cup sugar, half coffee-cup shortening, hard butter, equal parts is best; one heaping teaspoonful baking powder, one coffee-cup sweet milk, one quart flour well sifted; flavor to suit the taste.

## CHARLOTTE RUSSE.

Whites of seven eggs and yolks of four, three-fourths box of Cox's gelatine in enough sweet milk to dissolve it. After gelatine is dissolved put one cup of sugar with yolks of eggs; mix well; then mix sugar, eggs, and gelatine; let come to a boil; set off the stove to cool. As soon as it begins to congeal have a quart of cream and whites of eggs whipped; strain the custard into cream and eggs; stir thoroughly; flavor with vanilla; put aside to cool, then pour into a dish lined with slices of dry sponge-cake.—L. WALKER, Elmot, Ark.

## BANANA SHORTCAKE.

Cream one-half cup butter, one cup of sugar, stirring in one beaten egg, one-half cup milk, two cups flour, two teaspoonfuls baking powder. Over one cake spread a pint of whipped cream, sweetened to taste, into which has been stirred two bananas sliced thin. Lay the other over it and serve hot.

## YELLOW TOMATO PRESERVES.

Pare by pouring boiling water over them. Use a pound of sugar to a pound of fruit; pour sugar over tomatoes and let stand over night; strain off the sirup and boil down; drop in the fruit and boil until tender; flavor with lemon.

## LEMON BUTTER FOR TARTS.

Grate the rind and squeeze out the juice of a large lemon; add a teaspoon of sugar and put on the stove until dissolved; turn in two beaten eggs; cook slowly until it thickens.

## CREAM SPONGE CAKE.

Beat two eggs in a teacup, then fill the cup with cream. One cup of sugar, one and one-half cups of flour, one teaspoonful of cream tartar, half spoonful of cream, lemon. Very nice.

## SNOWBALL CAKE.

Half cup butter, whites of three eggs, one cup white sugar, one teaspoonful soda; stir with flour as thick as cake; bake in small tins. Flavor to suit taste.

## WHITE CAKE.

Whites of seven eggs, two cups sugar, one cup butter, one cup sweet milk, two heaping teaspoonfuls baking powder, three cups flour, scant.

## The Bordeaux Mixture.

The Bordeaux mixture was discovered by accident. A French gardener, trying to protect his grapes from being stolen by the Coccinellids of his neighborhood, mixed some blue vitriol with lime and splashed the vines near the road. The thieves thought the fruit was poisoned and would not eat it. But it was noticed that the mildew did not attack the grapes that were so treated, while destroying the rest of the crop. So spraying began.



[For the leisure hour of readers, old and young. All are invited to contribute original puzzles and send solutions to those published. Answers and names of solvers to this issue will appear in two months. An asterisk (\*) after a definition signifies that the word is obsolete. Address letters for this department: "Puzzle Editor," AMERICAN FARMER, 1229 New York Ave., Washington, D. C.]

## ENIGMATICS.—NO. 2.

10—Read; Dear. 12—Evil; Live. 13—VERBOSITY. 14—GAY. 15—CERON. 16—MANURER. 17—RESCUES. 18—CANTILATION. 19—CONSOLIDATION. 20—MANDATORY. 21—IMPETUOSITY. 22—Dew; Wed. 23—HORSEADISTRESS. 24—MILK. 25—FALSEVAPOR. 26—MIRACLES. 27—PERFUMERS. 28—PARMENTO. 29—MPCANTERS. 30—CARAVANSARIES. 31—MANTASTASTES.

18—The death of Louis Kosuth, the Hungarian patriot-statesman. Authors of word-forms: Dan D. Lyon, A. F. Holt, Miami, Pallas.

## ENIGMATICS.

Complete Lists: G. Race, Alumnus, Jo Mullins, Lucile, Ellsworth, K. T. Did, Goldson. Accomplishes: Frank Lynn, Swamp Angel, H. S. Nut, Pasco, Aspiro, Ivanhoe, Arty Fishel, Holly, Cinders, Uredge, Joel H. Hint, J. C. M., Zaida, Waldemar, Senorita, Adelante, Iron Mask, T. O'Boogin, Eugene, Christo, Serpeggiando, Dan D. Lyon, Sacramento, Real Estate, A. N. Drew, Faraway, Nypho, Marmion, The Tourist, P. A. Trick, Luna, Jo Urmal.

## WINNERS OF PRIZES.

1. Watch, Correl Kendall (SPHINX), Allston, Mass. 2. Gold pen and holder, Ellen A. Hill (PANDORA), Myrtle, N. Y. 3. Gold pen and holder, Ellsworth R. Brecht (ELLSWORTH), Rochester, N. Y. 4. Not awarded. 5. Not awarded. 6. J. S. F. Sessford (ALUMNUS), Washington, D. C. 7. A. V. Prudhon (A. N. DREW), Elmira, N. Y.

## ENIGMANIA.—NO. 4.

NO. 26—CHARADE. (To Julia.) ONE TWO O'er the road by the water mill, While the evening shades fall fast; The door is closed and the wheel is still, For the dreary day is past. But the river dashes its waters free, As it seeks the ocean, day after day, And its ceaseless song, As it rolls along, Recalls the thoughts of the birth of May.

THE LAST OF THE VIOLETS blooming free On the soft, warm earth below, Came stealing upon us o'er the lea We walked—was it long ago? When the moon shone down in its TOTAL light O'er this sad river that seemed so bright That the earth gave voice With us to rejoice At the breath of Spring and the dreamy night.

Ah! sad are the memories come to pain Me now when I am alone, For naught but the bitterest thoughts remain, And the sight of an empty throne. Over the waters and over the dell All that the voices of nature tell Is the wild unrest In my weary breast From that weary word farewell.—CINDERS, Rockford, Ill.

## NO. 27—INVERTED PYRAMID.

Across: 1. Relating to the bladder and prostate gland. 2. Paper covered with a thin solution of lime, whitening and size. 3. Septa. 4. Visited again. 5. A village of Hindostan. (Mitchell). 6. Eras. 7. An obsolete form of seal. (Cent.). 8. A letter. Down: 1. A letter. 2. A type-measure. 3. A river of Russia. 4. A passage. 5. Famed. 6. Described with olive trees. 7. European food fish. 8. Small balls of rich nine-meat. 9. Octants. 10. Grudges. 11. A County of southern Missouri. 12. Imitated. 13. A city of China. 14. A form of the prefix "in." 15. A.

## NO. 28—CHARADE.

In my dreams I see, dear, One who's dear to me, dear, Queen and lady of most regal cast in the air; Can't you guess her name, dear? You're just the same, dear, You are just her image, she's your eyes and lips and hair.

Floating PRIME my dreams, dear, Near she ever seems, dear, Bright with every glorious hue that dream may ever know. FINE from love's disguise, dear, Like thine own true eyes, dear, Eyes, deep-blue and beautiful, beneath long lashes glow.

So, when deep in sleep, dear, Still thy love doth keep, dear, Watch and ward above my couch till breaks the morning light; Still thy face is near, dear, Still thy voice I hear, dear, Still I lovingly commune with thee COMPLETE the night.

## NO. 29—DIAMOND.

1. A letter. 2. The Chinese word for tea. (Cent.). 3. A low, thick beggar. 4. The Florida bean. 5. A thick coat of live green grass. 6. Chrysanthemum. 7. Imbittered. 8. A tropical American stinging fiber-yielding herb. (Standard). 9. The nostrils. 10. The cover of the spore cases of mosses. 11. A letter.

## NYPHO, Germantown, Pa.

## NO. 30—TRANSPPOSITION.

He sighed to many, though he loved but one.—Byron.

We talk with fingers and with eyes, A sigh in that short word is set Life's enigmatic alphabet. A sigh, with woman, is an art, Yet 'tis an echo of the heart. A sigh can sever Cupid's chain; A sigh can join its links again; A sigh the heart can blissful make, And yet can whisper it to break; A sigh may vary in its kind; It is the lightning of the mind. On a sigh, with wings of light, The spirit takes its heavenly flight. A sigh that's just so faintly deep As wakes the soul from out its sleep, When lips we love and cheeks we prize Come dimpling to our raptured eyes—Posers, a sigh conceived like this Is cousin-german to a kiss. Will tell you what the flutters beat, A sigh's a wish, a thought, though heard, Not quite condensed into a word. A sigh's at least so bluish teach A rosy substitute for speech. In south, fair posers, then, a sigh

Is really love's stenography. Then let love build these sighs upon, Enraptured by a speech of sighs; And, since they are of blushing hue, Oh may they come, and in a two.—NYAPH, Washington, D. C.

## NO. 31—DIAMOND.

1. A letter. 2. Something thick and heavy. 3. Invites with opportunity. 4. A post-village of Perth County, Ontario. 5. Apertures that give passage. 6. American woodcocks. 7. Baiting. 8. Those of a genus of transparent tubular free swimming oceanic tunicates. 9. Spignells. (Cent.). 10. A bog. (Cent.). 11. A letter.—PRUDENCE, Mystic, Conn.

## NO. 32—ACROSTICAL ENIGMA.

(To Kosciska McGinty.) ONE ostracized brother and friend; His life in confusion will end. Two, brighter than many, laid bare A plan to secure better fare. THREE, later, in emigration brought, A mineral pitch often sought. FOUR, fables relate, did entreat To hear a sheep utter a bleat. FIVE, landing in desert retreat, Subsisted on antelope meat. SIX, lived in a mountainous place, A despot ashamed of his race. SEVEN, damaged a lot of Dutch cheese, And pardon secured on his knees. EIGHT, wandered, deranged, in the brakes, A-messing rodents and snakes. HO! smokers, tobacco is sweet When pulled from a pipe of COMPLETE!—ST. JULIAN, Utica, N. Y.

## NO. 33—INVERTED PYRAMID.

Across: 1. The maringa. 2. A super-temporal bone. 3. Trees of the Moluccas. 4. Pieces of canvas sewed across a sail. 5. Lamps. 6. Reduces the diameter of objects near the ends. 7. A point. 8. A letter. Down: 1. A letter. 2. A bone. 3. Red ochre. 4. To wrangle. 5. Grievous. 6. A Ramist. 7. After. 8. Greek or Latin proper name. 9. Shuts up. 10. Thorns. 11. Hands. 12. Trees. (Cent.). 13. Reils. 14. Might. (Standard). 15. A letter.—ITAMI, Jersey City, N. J.

## EMOLUMENTS.

1. To the person who suggests the most original, new, and interesting feature to be used in this column, a nickel-silver, open-faced watch, Rign movement, good timekeeper. See what your brains can evolve! 2. For the diamond, square or half-square containing the most letters, a handsome gold pen and gold-mounted holder. 3. For the best diamond, square or half-square, centered or balanced, non-obsolete, a well-known puzzle, "Dream of the Ages," by Kate Browne Sherwood, beautifully bound. 4. For the best verse puzzle, to be clearly restricted to the theme "Summer," a handsome gold pen and gold-mounted ivory holder. 5. For the best ballad or rondeau, "Dream of the Ages." 6. For the best list of answers to Enigmatica, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, and for nearest list of 12 or more answers to same, a 400-page bound book each.

## CONDITIONS.

In awarding prizes 2 and 3, size of form and number of pure Webster words will be used in this column, a nickel-silver, open-faced watch, Rign movement, good timekeeper. See what your brains can evolve! 2. For the diamond, square or half-square containing the most letters, a handsome gold pen and gold-mounted holder. 3. For the best diamond, square or half-square, centered or balanced, non-obsolete, a well-known puzzle, "Dream of the Ages," by Kate Browne Sherwood, beautifully bound. 4. For the best verse puzzle, to be clearly restricted to the theme "Summer," a handsome gold pen and gold-mounted ivory holder. 5. For the best ballad or rondeau, "Dream of the Ages." 6. For the best list of answers to Enigmatica, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, and for nearest list of 12 or more answers to same, a 400-page bound book each.

## ENIGMANIA.

The suggestion of an "all-around" puzzleistic contest has been received with general favor by our readers and it will be inaugurated in our next issue. For several months five verse puzzles and five word-forms will be printed monthly, each issue to be made up of the work of our own puzzles, thus giving every reader a chance to compete for prizes. A committee of three, composed of one farmer, one flatlist and one solver, will decide who is entitled to first prize in each puzzle, and will also decide on the award of No. 6, and word-forms should not be included. All classes open to subscribers. Do not send six-months subscriptions.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 31, 1894. TEMPERATURE. From the northern and central Rocky Mountain slopes eastward to the New England and middle Atlantic coasts the week ending July 30 has been warmer than usual, the temperature excess exceeding 3° per day over nearly the whole of the region named, while from the central Missouri Valley eastward to southern New England the average daily excess amounted to 6° or more per day, the maximum excess, 9° per day, occurring over Iowa and southern Minnesota.

This is the third successive week of abnormally warm weather, attended by unusually high maximum temperatures over the northern districts east of the Rocky Mountains. The warm wave which passed from the Missouri Valley eastward to the middle Atlantic and New England coasts, from the 24th to the 28, was attended on the last named date by the highest maximum temperatures ever recorded at some stations in North Dakota, northern Iowa, and in southern New England; Huron, S. Dak., reporting 108°; Omaha, Neb., Yankton, S. Dak., and Sioux City, Iowa, 106°.

In southern New England and southeastern New York temperatures as high or higher than any previously reported during the third decade of July occurred on the 28th; Eastport and Portland, Me., and Northfield, Vt., reporting the highest that have occurred in any month at those stations since their establishment.

In the Southern States, plateau regions, and on the Pacific coast, the week has been cooler than usual, the deficiency in temperature amounting to from 3° to 4° along the Gulf coast, in southern California, over portions of Idaho, Utah, Washington, and Oregon, and in extreme western Texas.

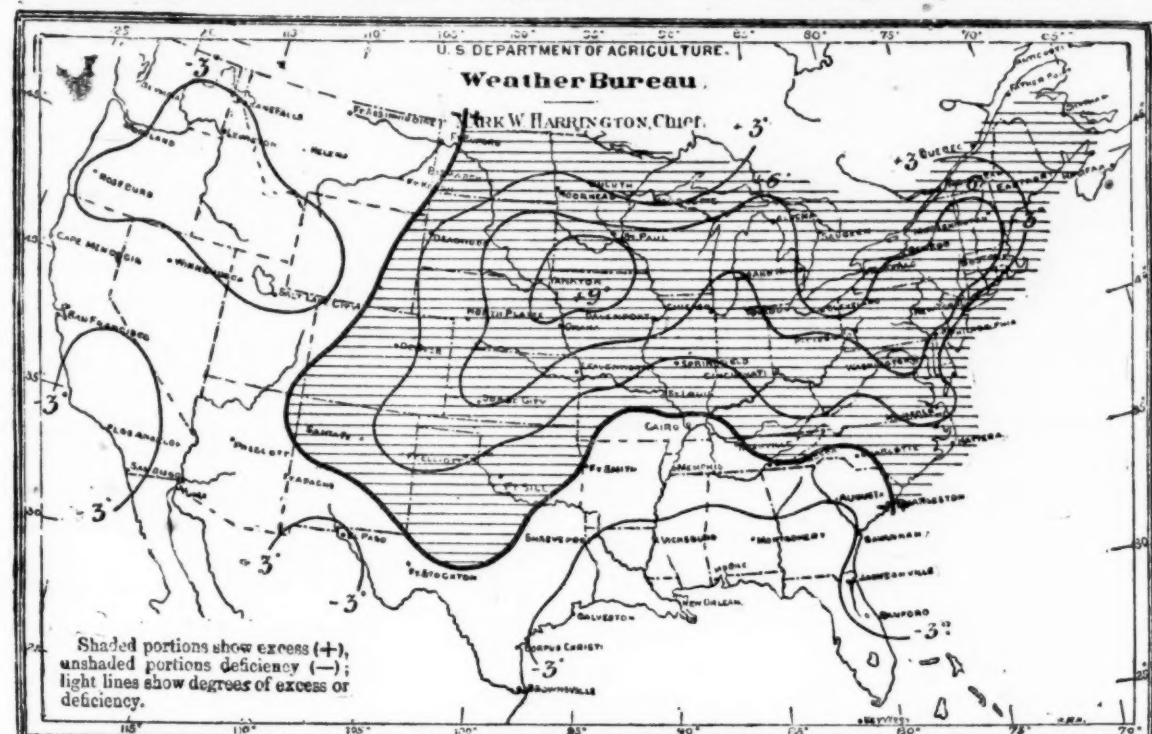
PRECIPITATION. More than the usual amount of rain fell over portions of the south Atlantic and east Gulf States, along the immediate west Gulf coast, and over portions of Missouri and Illinois. Elsewhere, with the exception of a few localities of limited extent, there has been less than the usual rainfall. Over portions of the upper Ohio, upper Mississippi, and upper Missouri valleys, and over the greater portion of Kansas and Nebraska little or no rain has fallen, and similar conditions are reported from portions of Arkansas, Texas, and generally throughout the plateau regions.

GENERAL REMARKS. The continued drought over the principal corn producing States of the central valleys and Northwest has resulted in great damage to the corn crop. Very unfavorable reports as to the condition of this crop are received from South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, Missouri, and Oklahoma, and while less unfavorable reports come from Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, the crop in those States is suffering greatly in the uplands. In the Southern States corn is generally in excellent condition, and in Georgia the heaviest crop for many years is predicted.

Reports as to cotton continue very favorable, although some slight injury

An article is advertised in another column which is guaranteed to "save one-half your fuel." This at first seems an extravagant statement, but a postal to the Rochester Radiator Co., Rochester, N. Y., will bring you satisfactory evidence of the correctness of the claim.

## Departures from Normal Temperature, Week Ending July 30, 1894.



## Departure from Normal Rainfall for Week Ending July 30, 1894.



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has resulted from excessive cloudiness and heavy local rains in portions of South Carolina and Florida.

Tobacco is doing well in Tennessee, and in some portions of Maryland, Virginia and Kentucky, but reports from Ohio are unfavorable.

SPECIAL TELEGRAPHIC REPORTS. New England.—Very hot; much sunshine; heavy showers in east-central districts, with damage by lightning and wind; very little rain in southern portion and no crops greatly damaged by drought in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and southeastern Massachusetts; crops elsewhere doing well.

New York.—Fine harvesting weather; grass and grain mostly secured; oats improved; cutting general; generally insufficient showers; thrashing begun; hay all secured; potatoes growing well; potatoes uneven; fruits not improving; pastures short.

New Jersey.—Rain; rains benefited but followed by intense heat and dry winds; droughty conditions again prevail; oats harvested with average yield; fruit fine; premature pastures dried up; ground too dry for plowing and sowing; corn and potatoes doing well; tobacco; melons being shipped in large quantities; a few apples and pears.

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Maryland.—Rain is again needed in nearly all sections; corn and tomatoes generally look well; melons being shipped in large quantities; a few apples and pears.

North Carolina.—Showers first and latter part of week; very warm; crops are excellent; corn and potatoes doing well; tobacco; melons being shipped in large quantities; a few apples and pears.

South Carolina.—General conditions continue favorable; crops that cloudiness and showers have improved the condition of cotton in localities; other crops doing well; corn and potatoes doing well; tobacco; melons being shipped in large quantities; a few apples and pears.

Georgia.—Temperature about three degrees below normal; rain; rains benefited but followed by intense heat and dry winds; droughty conditions again prevail; oats harvested with average yield; fruit fine; premature pastures dried up; ground too dry for plowing and sowing; corn and potatoes doing well; tobacco; melons being shipped in large quantities; a few apples and pears.

Alabama.—Temperature deficient; rainfall about normal, but poorly distributed; good growing week; heavy local rains damaged cotton in places; corn, rice, potatoes, and melons doing well.

Florida.—Drought continues in western portion, where crops are suffering; local showers have been beneficial to growing crops in other portions; corn in excellent condition; tobacco doing well; pastures improving; cotton needing rain; wheat about all thrashed.

Kentucky.—Cloudy, warm, light scattered showers; corn and tobacco doing well in sections where rain has fallen, but in others seriously threatened by drought; corn and wheat generally damaged yet; gardens and pastures burning up; rain badly needed.

Missouri.—Drought and hot winds greatly damaged corn in all northern and many central and southern counties in northern sections with rain soon corn will make one-half to two-thirds crop; in number of central and southern counties corn in good condition, in others must have rain soon or will make but half crop; some good showers Saturday and Sunday.

Illinois.—Temperature above normal and sunshiny; well distributed rains latter part of week over considerable portions of State were of immense benefit to crops; of reports as to conditions and prospects for corn received from 90 counties, but it indicates good damage to crops; corn and tobacco doing well; pastures improving; cotton needing rain; wheat about all thrashed.

Indiana.—Drought continues in western portion, where crops are suffering; local showers have been beneficial to growing crops in other portions; corn in excellent condition; tobacco doing well; pastures improving; cotton needing rain; wheat about all thrashed.

Indiana.—Badly distributed local showers since Friday, with rains of the preceding week subsided corn in many fields; corn in heavy soil in best condition; good corn, fanning and ears appearing, but in light and clay soil it suffers much; rain was from five to ten days will insure a good crop.

West Virginia.—Warm, with occasional showers; sunshine average; dry in northern, central, and western counties; elsewhere good rains received; hay and grain doing well; wheat thrashing out well; oats light; tobacco from fair to bad and almost all of it.

Ohio.—Droughty conditions are damaging corn, tobacco, and grain; potatoes doing well; land corn is still in fair condition, but upland is seriously damaged; prospect for poor thrashing out well; oats light; tobacco from fair to bad and almost all of it.

Michigan.—Temperature and sunshine above normal and rainfall below; crops





**THE FARM HOUSE.**

*His house she enters there to be a light.*

**Polly Making Tea.**

The china gleams in blue and white,  
The twilight hour is swift approaching;  
Entranced I note with shy delight,  
No other callers are encroaching.

A cup she designates as mine,  
With motion of her dainty finger,  
The kettle boils—oh! drink divine,  
In merriment shall thy fragrance linger.

Her kerchief's made in style of yore,  
Some fairy surely put the hom on,  
Held sugar such a charm before,  
Was'er such magic in a lemon?

She turns away with manner cool,  
The bright glow of her beauty clearer;  
Oh, why is teasing such a joy?  
I wish she'd come a little nearer.

We sit and sip—the time flies fast,  
My cup needs filling—project clever!  
She comes, and I—grown bold at last—  
Say, "Polly, make my tea forever!"

—Florence Scollard Browne.

**A Tired Woman's Epitaph.**

Here lies a poor woman who always was tired,  
Who lived in a house where help was not hired,  
Her last words on earth were: "Dear friends, I am going  
Where washing ain't done, nor sweeping, nor sewing,  
But everything there is exact to my wishes,  
For where they don't eat there's no washing of dishes,  
I'll be where loud animals will always be ringing,  
But having no voice I'll get clear of the singing.  
Don't mourn for me now, don't mourn for me never,  
I'm going to do nothing for ever and ever."



**FASHION'S FANCIES.**

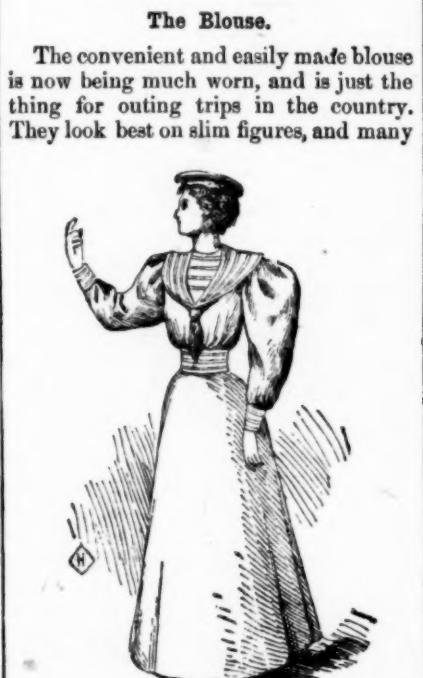
**For the Little Ones.**

The simplest of little white dresses are undoubtedly prettiest for very small boys or girls, but they are certainly not promoters of wash-tub economy. Brown linen is cool, and trimmed with very narrow white tape or feather stitched braid, are both pretty and serviceable. They will stay clean three times longer than white dresses.

Even city girls have stopped wearing gloves this warm weather, and many of them have become quite reconciled to tanned skin.

Slender gold chains, two yards long, which were worn 50 years ago, are now very fashionable. The woman is fortunate who can bring out her mother's or grandmother's from a hidden corner. The longer the better.

The daintiest Summer gown for a "best" for a girl or young woman is a simple dotted muslin, with white belt and neck ribbon and a wide ruffle about the shoulders edged with very narrow lace.



**THE Blouse.**

The convenient and easily made blouse is now being worn much, and is just the thing for outing trips in the country. They look best on slim figures, and many a young woman has been complimented on her blouse.

**THE Necessary Bag.**

If you want to remember somebody's birthday with a little gift, make some kind of a pretty bag out of any pretty material you happen to have. There are shoe bags, dust bags, hand bags, or shopping bags, and opera and party bags. Make the shoe bag of awning cloth, in a piece 25 by 15 inches. Stitch to this a piece 68 by 9 inches to form a double row of pockets, divided by flat braid, which binds the whole. Make loops of braid to hang it up.

To make a pretty bag for the dust cloth, take a towel and outline the figures in silk to match the border. Fold in half, fold over the ends, so that they make a sort of valance, and just above the border run a ribbon drawstring.

**WOMAN'S WISDOM.**

**Her Parlor Curtains.**

EDITOR FARMHOUSE: I would like to tell the readers of the Farmhouse how I made my parlor curtains for my parlor. I bought the linen scrim, for which I paid 16 cents at special sale. The usual price is 25 cents per yard. I used three and one-quarter yards for each curtain, and two curtains at each window. I put a hem two and one-half inches wide across two ends and one side, and hemstitched the hem all around, then I finished one side and end with lace, crocheted for No. 40 linen thread after the antique or spider-web pattern.

I have them hung over poles with the lace-trimmed end turned over 21 inches for a lambrquin at the top. Everyone that sees them admires them, and thinks them so much prettier than lace curtains, unless one could afford the very expensive lace ones.

To be sure, it takes some time and patience to crochet the lace, but mine was done at odd moments, and makes me "visiting" work. They would be very pretty trimmed with some of the pretty bought laces, although the beauty of them is their being hand made, and wash so nicely.

I have two old-style brown linen dusters, which were worn a few years ago, and I am going to make some lovely covers for cushions from them. I shall make one to slip over my sofa pillow. Both sides of the linen embowered in outline stitch with seal brown rope line, choosing a large pattern with a different design for each side, and a full double ruffle in the seam around the four sides. And it makes nice covers for chair cushions outlined with the linen, and when soiled they can be slipped off and laundered and look as nice as when new.

I tried the idea of making hand soap and had splendid success.—Mrs. RISLEY, Connecticut.

**Pleasantness in Our Homes.**

EDITOR AMERICAN FARMER: Let us be pleasant in our homes for a long while. Pleasant words are seldom if ever uttered and scowls instead of pleasant smiles are seen, must be a cheerless home indeed.

Oh, how I wish that all families did enjoy divine love, or at least a love that would bring forth kind words instead of fault finding and complaining.

In many households there is frowning and fretting, snarling, and scolding from morning until night, and the inmates become gloomy, cold-hearted, and for the want of love in their hearts their countenances grow dark and dismal, their voices unnatural, their actions uninviting. They always carry their ill-nature with them, and it is apt to be felt where they least intend it should. Pleasant smiles or kind words in our homes are like rays of sunshine. Husbands speak kindly to their wives. They are entitled, at least, to your kindness, if not to your gratitude, for what they have done for you. Many a wife droops for the want of praise or encouragement to lighten her daily cares. Over-worked women become weary and fretful, and thus many begin the habit of scolding.

But no matter if your wife does scold, speak pleasantly to her. Let her see by your kindness that you have one spark of the old love left for her yet. Wives, be cheerful in your homes. Husbands, speak kindly to your wives. They are entitled, at least, to your kindness, if not to your gratitude, for what they have done for you. Many a wife droops for the want of praise or encouragement to lighten her daily cares. Over-worked women become weary and fretful, and thus many begin the habit of scolding.

**Homemade Furniture.**

EDITOR AMERICAN FARMER: Out on the frontier, where furniture is expensive and the houses small, the kitchen serves for dining-room and parlor. I think the homemade contrivances are very useful, and sometimes quite ornamental. I have described here a very nice for a kitchen where a washbasin is a necessity. Or does nicely for a bedroom.

Take two packing boxes, each 38 inches high, 18 inches across, and 18 deep. Join firmly together with stout nails, and inside, and put a full size shelf in the center of the left one. In the one to the right put a shelf about four inches from the top for clean towels. Make doors of the covers of the boxes. Put on the outer edges with small hinges, when closed to meet in the center. Take a board 16 by 16 inches, cut a hole in the center large enough to allow the basin to set well in. Mine is a 12-inch wood-fiber ware, very light and durable. Fasten to inside of door to right with brackets. Plane smooth and paint any color desired. I find the ready-mixed paints can be got in almost any color, very cheap and good. Finish with white porcelain knobs and castors. The one compartment will hold two waterpails. The other with room in the bottom for scrubbing pail and brush. This can be made by any woman who can use a hammer and saw. I hope this may be of use to someone.—Mrs. J. H., North Dakota.

**PICNIC LUNCHEONS.**

**Nice Dishes for a Day's Outing—Household Matters.**

EDITOR FARMHOUSE: Now that Summer is here, there will be picnics in many localities. What is more pleasant of a warm, summer day than to take some well laden baskets to some cool, shady place near a babbling brook, spread the contents of the baskets, and eat. Then after luncheon the older ones may enjoy themselves chatting with the younger ones, while the latter play about or wade in the brook.

Instead of making dressing and baking chicken, try frying it nicely. It will be much easier cooked and is delicious. Take a beautiful supply of dainty little cakes and little ones so well. Do not forget to take pickles. They are almost indispensable.

I will give a recipe for pickles: Soak cucumbers a day in salt water to freshen, put on the stove in a granite-iron kettle, cover with vinegar, add a little salt and spice to taste. Let them boil. Pack closely in jars, cover with boiling vinegar and seal.

A knife made out of hard wood to clean young potatoes with, will not stain the fingers like a metal one.

Parboiled young potatoes which are colored. They will then be almost as light as white ones.

Busy housewives, try to lessen your labors by doing your baking, washing, ironing, cleaning, etc., in the cool of the day. How often do we find tired, hot, cross-looking women at dinner time? This might be avoided to a great extent if the baking was done, the vegetables prepared, and everything done that could be before the fire was kindled to cook dinner. Then while dinner is cooking let her arrange the flowers for the table, raise the windows, and make things as pleasant as possible for the hot, weary husband and others.

There are so many farmers' wives who would be better satisfied if they did not live on a farm. Let such if on a farm try to find the pleasant part of farm life and be able to sing with those who like the farm—

A farmer's life is the life for me,  
I own I love it dearly;  
Every season is full of bliss,  
I take its labors cheerily.  
—Mrs. NORA NEELY, Fairview, Ore.

**TO THE HOME ECONOMIST.**

**Hints From a Farmer's Wife Worth Pondering.**

EDITOR FARMHOUSE: Please allow me the privilege of having a little chat with some of the correspondents in past AMERICAN FARMERS. When I read Farmhouse the Best, I just sat down and held a consultation of one, and asked myself if I were among the discontented ones, and my answer is, No, a thousand times no. I do know and appreciate all the blessings I have, and am very thankful for them, although I do all my own work for a family of six, three of them children. Then I have a horse and carriage, and often take some city friend out for a drive without reaching into my pocket-book for a couple of dollars to pay for it.

But after an experience of 23 years I've come to the conclusion that farmers' wives work lots harder than their husbands do, and just now I've had an inkling that I've really and truly missed my vocation.

My husband, in an unguarded moment, told someone he thought of buying a wind mill, and since then the agents have come from every part of Lucas County and all the adjoining Counties. They come and stay all night, and have actually stayed all night. My husband is wearing his trousers out sitting so much, and I have to sit up nights to mend them, and I've learned all the wind mills and can get off all the agent's lingo, even tell the other fellows that I know no more, so I see I have a big sign to think what I might have been and am not.

Now to business. Mr. Editor, haven't you some kind of a trap to catch these fellows in? For they are only a bother and a hindrance and no earthly good. Now, I trust you'll come quickly to the rescue, while I tell the ladies how I made something pretty for the home. First, let me tell you of a large vase I have in my parlor. I went to the pottery, selected a large jar with a large base, tapering slightly at the top, then I had an outworn projection at top. It's about as high as a six-gallon churn. I gave this three good coats of gray paint, letting each coat dry thoroughly; then I wondered what I should paint on it for decoration. The vase was last October, and while sitting studying it out, the wind blew a long trailing spray of the American or five-leaved ivy across the door, and it caught my eye, and I took the shears and cut off several sprays and tied them on my jar, and then with a lead pencil I quickly outlined the jar, the large sprays and the ivy falling from the top of the jar. Then I commenced painting with the tube paints in the natural colors of the vine, and some of the leaves are red, some light green, some dark, and once in a while a yellow one; just as they came on the spray I painted them, and it's so pretty; then I gathered wheat, oats, rye, barley, and timothy, and have an elegant farmer's bouquet. Now, I hear some lady say "Yes, but I can't paint." Well, you just try and see. I thought so too.

The time was when I fairly envied the woman who could paint a flower on a cushion, but patience does work wonders sometimes. No, I did not take a single lesson, but just bought the paints and began to learn.—FARMER'S WIFE, Maumee, O.

**DRUGGERY AND A POEM.**

**Another Objection to Small Waists.**

EDITOR FARMHOUSE: I am so glad the Farmhouse door is open this bright Summer morning, so I can come in, for I feel like having a good chat with those who meet here.

First, I must tell you what a laugh I had over Janet McKerwin's protest against the fashion illustrations in woman's papers. I do not wonder that she objects to having such illustrations represent the American woman. In my opinion they look more as though they were intended to represent big ants.

My, such waists! Janet furthermore says: "Many writers speak of farmhouse drudgery as if that were the only drudgery in the world. I think it is because so many housewives look upon their work as drudgery, simply because there is no return for their labor in dollars and cents."

They forget how grateful they should be that their loved ones are spared to them to labor for, and instead of making their work easy by making it a labor of love, they make themselves, and everyone with whom they come in contact, miserable, by constantly complaining of their hard lot.

If there is a housewife who reads these fashion illustrations and thinks of the drudgery as I have heard some women say, I want to ask you if you ever read Wm. Barr's poem, "The Barley Cakes?"

As it is so cheering to discouraged housewives, I am going to ask the editor to publish it, and I firmly believe that no woman who reads it but that will feel better and stronger for it.

**THE BARLEY CAKES.**

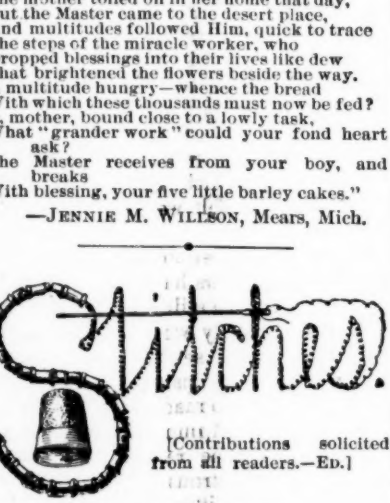
Drudgery, drudgery all the day,  
The grassy green mountains, the breeze swept lakes,  
The fair, sweet flowers among the brakes,  
The birds that flutter about the trees,  
The flocks on the hillside—none of these  
Gild my life, and I am dreary and blue.  
My life's best days on the homely care,  
That falls to the lot of the housewife, bare  
As the rocks of the desert, and cold as the snow,  
Who, from dawn of day to setting sun,  
Does nothing grander than sweep or bake  
In the shades the little barley cakes.

Drudgery, drudgery, ah, to-day  
My life is a dreary, dreary day—  
(My shepherd boy brave!) his father's sheep,  
He must not know that my heart is faint,  
Or catch the gleam of my sad complaint,  
And shame to me that I've dared to lay  
Across my threshold this bit of rue.

Forgotten that palm trees about me grew  
Fruitful and fair as the sixty and ten  
I think of my boy 'tis with joy I make  
For his lunch in the desert, the barley cake.

The mother toiled on in her home that day,  
But the Master came to the desert place,  
And multitudes followed Him, quick to trace  
The miracles that His mighty word made,  
Drooping blessings into their lives like dew,  
And the flocks of the hillside—none of these  
Gild my life, and I am dreary and blue.  
My life's best days on the homely care,  
That falls to the lot of the housewife, bare  
As the rocks of the desert, and cold as the snow,  
Who, from dawn of day to setting sun,  
Does nothing grander than sweep or bake  
In the shades the little barley cakes.

What "grand work" could your fond heart  
The Master receives from your boy, and  
With blessing, your five little barley cakes."  
—JENNIE M. WILSON, Mears, Mich.



**MATS FOR THE TABLE.**

Table mats may be out of fashion, but they are useful. Mine are so pretty that some one may like to know about them and how they are made. Buy coarse lacing by the dozen or ball. Commence at one end of the lacing, sew all on one side until you have a little row of lacing, then turn the lacing over, and sew these three stripes just as you would rag for a floor mat, sewing on the wrong side. Put three rows of this braid around your center piece, then outside a row of the little mats. It took 34 for one of my mats. With a little ingenuity in varying the way of putting together these braid and little mats, a set of lovely table mats can be made.—Mrs. M. C. RODGERS, Newtown, Conn.

**TALKING IT OVER.**

**Hints and Opinions on Things in the Home and Out of It.**

**HINTS FROM MICHIGAN.**

Mrs. Vera Tuttle, Eaton County, Mich., writes: I am a farmer's wife, live on a farm, and know how to work a little bit, and I like to. I know if the class of rich idlers who are dying of ennui would do their share of the work that is to be done in this world they would soon forget there was such a thing as ennui. I also can read and write, and like to do that, too. I am able, by writing, to get reading matter, and as we do not own a gold watch, I can write and practice this time, so I will tell you what some do not know, the easiest way to cleanse feather beds and pillows: Take a cake, bright day, not too hot; lay beds and pillows on the grass; take clean, cold water and a good brown and scrub them. If there are grease spots, use soap. Give them a good scrubbing on both sides. Rinse thoroughly by throwing on water. As they dry, turn two or three times a day. They will dry better if when partly dry they are laid on boards or chairs. Perhaps hot water would do as well, but I never tried it.

This is also the nicest way to wash rag carpets; it is so much easier than any other way, and the carpet looks so nice and clean washed in this way.

When I write helps for housekeepers I try to be very plain, for I was once a young housekeeper and knew so little of the business that many of the directions were so much Greek and Latin to me.

**FAVORS RECEIVED.**

Mrs. R. A. Osborn, Ipswich, S. D., says: "How many of us try to acknowledge small favors received? I never realized the importance of it so much as I have this Summer. After sending nearly 30 small packages, I have received one letter stating that the package was received. Not knowing whether the sender had received it or not, I was judged dishonest by some who have sent stamps for packages; but all have been sent as promptly as possible. I am a farmer's wife and have a great deal to do, and have spent many an afternoon cutting off patterns when my time was very precious to me, and should have felt as though my time was well spent if each one had acknowledged receiving them. So I say to each one, always acknowledge favors received though they be small."

**HOW SHE LIKES THE PAPER.**

Mrs. R. M. G., Battle Creek, Iowa, writes: First, I will tell you how well I like your paper. We think it just as good as can be. One of my neighbors brought a copy to me, and I read it all over carefully and thought I would send for it one year, as we had not ever sent a copy of it until then, and the result is I do not see how we can ever without it again, we like it so well. We think it interesting and instructive to farmers and their wives. I am a farmer's wife, and all that interests John interests me about the farm. I have learned so much from the poultry columns. I have seen carefully read all about the care of turkeys and their little ones, and I am going to try my luck at the business. Have always been afraid to try this business, not knowing how to care for the little turkeys. I bought four for trial, of common black, and if I succeed with these, next year I will get broods.

**HER INVESTMENT.**

Farmer's Wife, Maumee, O., writes: I have just invested some of my last year's chicken money in a thoroughbred Jersey this year. I hope to add another, and soon have what I've always wanted, a number of Jerseys.

**A WHOLE CATECHISM.**

M. N. Y., writes: A. Phil. Oceanside, Cal., tell us, please, how do you like the editor who will welcome you, and we like to hear of your country. How are your orange trees? Are you in an irrigating section?

Do you not put any milk in your sweet pudding? You did not do so to chop the sweet fine. Do you live on a farm? Do you have much fog? Are you close to the ocean? Do you have running streams of water? Any fish in them? Do you have timber land and wild flowers?

**DAISY EXPERIMENT.**

L. H., Bensenville County, N. Y., writes: I find the Farmhouse very interesting, being a farmer's wife. I do my own housework and find time to care for a few flowers and make some fancy work. It breaks the monotony of housework to spend a little time with my flowers occasionally. I tried an experiment with a large Marguerite, or daisy, which was in the ground last Summer, and I wished to save through the Winter. I put it in a jar and set it in the cellar in the Fall, and in February it looked nearly as nice and green as when I put it there. I watered it occasionally.

**PREPARED ROSE PETALS FOR SACHETS.**

M. L. Irving, Indian County, Wash., gives her method. I have the wild rose bushes, but any kind will do. In the morning as early as possible I pick the buds and flowers which have just opened, scatter thinly to dry, then lay in single rows on blotting paper, and dry in a small handful of salt, such as—sage, cinnamon, and cloves—broken fine. Continue until you have all you wish; cover tight. To one gallon dried petals add two ounces of spice. Let it stand one month, then strain through the whole one ounce of sachet powder, heliotrope, Claret Club, and orris root. Remain one month longer and they will be ready for rose jar or sachet, or can be used in any way preferred.

**SOME IDEAS.**

G. H. R., Samsonville, N. Y., asks: Will someone please tell me a good recipe for salad dressing, also, a good one for lemon pie? Did you ever get tomato tarts? They can be canned just as well as any fruit, and they keep as well and are very good to make pies of through the Winter. Also, if your peony don't bloom, try well-rotted chip if it is not too late to plant them in another place in the dark moon in August.

**DRAWING AND PAINTING.**

Cora M. Gifford, Grafton, Iowa, says: Many studies are now recommended to women to fit them to preside over a home. None are more important than the study of painting and drawing. How much more interesting are the flowers in our gardens or in the fields than the most studied and favorite blossoms in colors. If the taste is for landscape painting, what a new interest has the sky after one has made a study of it in so charming landscape. The foliage of a Summer landscape presents a hundred shades of green never before discovered by one who has made a study of color. The practical benefit of art study is to be seen in many ways. One of the most common of these is the regard for harmony of color in dress and surroundings. The furniture is more artistically arranged, the pictures are hung with more regard to the right light, and all little touches of comfort and beauty are helped by this study.

**USEFUL SUGGESTIONS.**

A young housekeeper, Lacota, Mich., says: When I have windows to wash I find it a great help to put very little kerosene oil in the water. I use no soap, just rub the glass with the oil and water, then polish with a dry cloth. You will be surprised to see how clear and bright they will look. Just try it once and see. Then, I use dampened salt on my carpets when I sweep. It not only saves dust and the trouble of so much dusting, but also cleans the carpet. I like it better than coffee grounds or anything else that I ever used.

About the handiest little article that I have found lately is to take a pound baking powder and chop the bottom full of holes and use it to chop potatoes or apples for mince meat or even the meat when it is freshly

**HER SENSIBLE NOTIONS.**

Mrs. L. O'K., Fremont, Ind., writes: We farmers' wives, I think, need farm literature even more than the farmers themselves. They are necessarily out among their fellow-men in disposing of their farm products, while with many of us an occasional visit to "the store" or an hour's call on one's nearest neighbor constitute our society. And in these hard times the dimes and dollars that can be invested in literature are few indeed. As a rule, we farmer women do not rest enough. I speak from experience when I say I think we would do more work and with greater ease if we rested more. It is a part of my religion to spend an hour every afternoon lying in a darkened room, with my eyes closed, if I do not sleep. I am rather nervous, and sometimes find it impossible to sleep, but usually I sleep so soundly that only repeated calls of "mamma" from the twins will disturb me. By the way, these same twins—these six-year-old—wakes me a few days ago to know what "circumstances means." This being my first attempt at "writing" for the papers, I have no fear whatever of the waste-paper basket, but do feel a little shy about seeing my name in print among their fellow-men. Their little bodies should not be jarred or wearied by being jolted over rough roads or bounced over gutters.—MARGARET JENNINGS.

**Summer Hat.**

The kind of hat most women need is the kind that can be worn with anything, and anywhere. One made of black net, on a frame, costs but little, and can be made to look very dressy and becoming if tastefully put together.



The hat shown in the cut is of gray net, and has large silk rosettes each side of the crown. If lace is used on the edge of the brim, it should be very narrow. It makes a pretty finish and adds to the beauty of the hat.

**CARE OF CHILDREN.**

**Suggestions that Will Help Both Mothers and Little Ones.**

EDITOR AMERICAN FARMER: The most important thing for a baby to do during the first few months of his life is to grow, and in order to do this under the most favorable circumstances he should have plenty of nourishing food, water to drink and for bathing, sleep, and pure air. Let his clothing be loose enough for comfort and suited to the weather. Do not bundle him up in flannel during the hot months of Summer. A thin flannel shirt with sleeves, one sleeveless flannel skirt, or a calico or muslin dress will be enough for a baby less than three months old. For older children the flannel skirt may be dispensed with, and after they are old enough to sit alone they will not need any flannel during the heat of the day. If the mother must be her own laundress she will find that it does not pay to trim the little dresses with tucks and ruffles. Their best dresses may be of fine nainsook, deeply hemmed around the bottom; a yoke of all-over embroidery adds to its appearance, and is not hard to iron.

During the first few weeks of baby's life the room in which he stays should be kept as nearly the same temperature as possible. Exposure to drafts of cold air and sudden changes of temperature is productive of colic. By exercising a little care in this respect you may save him a great deal of suffering and yourself many anxious hours and much loss of sleep.

Teach the baby to take his naps at certain hours each day, and let nothing disturb him if it is possible to prevent it. It is a mistake to think that he is not getting enough of all the noise the older children make, the buzz of the sewing machine and other distractions of family life. If you value his health or your own peace of mind, find a quiet corner for his cradle.

A daily bath is necessary to cleanliness, and is greatly enjoyed by the child has been scared by being put in water that was too hot or too cold for comfort. As to the temperature of baths during babyhood, begin at 98 degrees of heat, and from week to week gradually reduce it to without his realizing it, they will bear and enjoy it. After the little body is dried, rub him with the hand until a good reaction is secured.

At this season of the year especially, and every season more or less, many babies suffer from want of proper nourishment, where nature's supply fails entirely, or is inadequate to meet the demands of the little one. Providence has placed several cases under my own observation, and I feel constrained to give out a few of my experiences. There are not many infants with whom cow's milk agrees. It is thrown from their stomachs in a short time, and causes serious disorders of the digestive organs. Cracker water, rice water, and arrow root are of no use. The mother must give the little stomachs the insipid fluid, the writer was compelled to give his first baby prepared foods when he was a month old, and after giving several infants' foods a thorough trial, decided that lactated food was the most perfect and healthful. It is not so pleasant as breast milk, and having raised three healthy, hearty babies upon it, I feel free to recommend it to others. Keep the bottles and rubber nipples scrupulously clean. Prepare only a small quantity of the food at one time, and empty and rinse the bottle after each meal. At first, baby should be fed every two hours, gradually lengthening the time and increasing the quantity as he grows older. Give him a drink of fresh water every few hours, and he will often quite a restless child at night, and children frequently suffer from the want of it. During the first six months of their lives fed lactated food exclusively; after that, a little boiled rice, sugar, or tapioca may be given in addition. The juice of fresh, ripe peaches is beneficial in case of constipation.

Babies born in the country have the advantage of pure, fresh air that city children have not, and the old French custom of sending the fashionable mother's babe to a country foster mother was not without its reason, although very few of us would like to part with our little ones. But city mothers can send them out to some cool, shady place every morning and evening, if they have a competent foster mother who does not mind the heat, although very few of us would like to part with our little ones. But city mothers can send them out to some cool, shady place every morning and evening, if they have a competent foster mother who does not mind the heat, although very few of us would like to part with our little ones. But city mothers can send them out to some cool, shady place every morning and evening, if they have a competent foster mother who does not mind the heat, although very few of us would like to part with our little ones.

**How to Make a Neat Bookshelf.**

EDITOR AMERICAN FARMER: Take a plank 12 inches square, put a hole in each corner; then take four largest sized spools, run a strong string through a spool, then through the plank, you then have the bottom; then to each corner put on an eight more spools a size smaller, then run your next plank, allowing it to be one inch smaller, and so on until as high as wanted; finish at the top with one spool,

hang by nails driven in the wall so as to come just under each shelf; paint with dark paint. These are very neat and cost but little.—Mrs. T. W. HAWLEY, Marshall County, Ky.

**Household Hints.**

In dropping medicine into a spoon place the handle between the leaves of a closed book lying on the table, and then both hands may be used in dropping the mixture.

Clothes that are sprinkled over night this sultry weather are quite apt to mildew before morning. Rub them with buttermilk, and lay them in the sun and the mildew, unless very bad, will disappear. Another remedy is salt and vinegar. Badly mildewed clothes never can be made white.

An economical mother will save scraps of soap, melt them, and stir in enough corn meal to thicken. When made into little cakes it is the very thing for the boys to take the dirt off their knuckles with.

A teaspoonful of lime water to a pitcher of milk is very beneficial.

After knives have been cleaned they may be brilliantly polished with charcoal powder. Rub spoons with salt to remove egg stains.

**For the Home Table.**

**STUFFED POTATOES MAKE FINE EATING.**

Take large potatoes, bake until soft and cut a round piece off the top of each. Scrape out the inside carefully so as not to break the skin, and set aside the empty cases with the covers. Mash the inside very smoothly, working into it while hot some butter and cream, about half a teaspoonful for every potato. Season with salt and pepper, with a good pinch of grated cheese for each; work it very soft with milk, and put into a saucepan to heat, stirring to prevent burning. When scalding hot stir in one well-beaten egg for six large potatoes. Roll up once, fill the skins with the mixture, replacing the caps. Then return them to the oven for three minutes. Arrange upon a napkin in a deep dish, with the caps uppermost, cover with a fold of the napkin and serve very hot.

**ESCALLOPED TOMATOES.**

Toward the middle of the Summer one begins to tire of tomatoes served plain. The following is an appetizing dish for tea or breakfast: Take six nice tomatoes and scald to remove the skin. Chop them in inch square cuts, and season with a teaspoonful of salt, half a teaspoonful of pepper, three heaping tablespoonfuls of butter, one of sugar, and, if liked, a spoonful of onion-essence. Have toasted and cut fine a couple of very dry bread. Butter a pudding dish and put a layer of tomatoes in the bottom, then the cupful of bread and the remainder of the tomatoes on top of that. Over the top put a half cupful of toasted bread which has been pounded to a powder. Lay over it some bits of butter, dampen with a little milk and set in a hot oven for 15 minutes.

**PICKLED CABBAGE.**

Shave cabbage very fine with a sharp knife; place a quart in a jar, have an oyster can filled sharp at open end with which cut the cabbage in the jar. After having salted it enough to make a rather strong brine, put in more cabbage, salt and cut as before until jar is full. Put a white cloth over the jar, turn a plate over it, place a weight on it, set in a cool place if weather is warm. When wanted for use, soak as you would pickles, put it in vinegar with a few cloves and a tablespoonful of sugar have been added. It will keep from one August or September till the next.

**SWEET-PICKLED APPLES.**

Take three pounds sugar, three quarts of vinegar (not very strong), 10 pounds of sweet apples; pare and quarter; boil vinegar and sugar; skim it, then take half of the sirup into another vessel; put as many apples into your preserving pan as will boil conveniently, and boil until tender; skim these out; add more apples and sirup, until all are done. Spice with whole cloves and nutmeg.—Mrs. M. E. W., Nimrod, Minn.

**COLD SLAUGH.**

Shave cabbage fine, scald half a pint of good vinegar to two-thirds of a colic-cup of sweet cream, add the yolk of an egg well beaten and a teaspoonful of sugar, pour the scalding vinegar slowly over the mixture, stirring so as not to break the egg; return to the stove, let boil up, pour over cabbage and serve either hot or cold, as suits taste.

**CANNED CORN.**

Cut the corn from the ears, not too close; put it in wide-mouth jar. One layer of corn, then sprinkle a very thin layer of salt, then a layer of corn, and then salt, and so on until full, and then put a clean cloth on a sheet of paper and then a heavy weight to press the corn under the brine; keep in a cool place. Let me know if my letter goes in the waste-basket, which would not surprise me. I will write more some other time.—CLAUDE WILSON'S MOTHER.

**USE FOR STALE BREAD.**

A good way to use up stale bread is to put the bread to soak in sweet milk for two or three hours; then beat up three eggs and a cup of sugar together, flavor with any flavoring to suit the taste; put this in with bread and a few raisins; bake in a moderate oven for half an hour; serve while warm. This is sufficient for six persons.—E. A. CLAUDE.

**NEW WAYS OF COOKING EGGS.**

Butter a dish and cover it with fine breadcrumbs. Break the eggs carefully over the dish till it is covered. Sprinkle salt and pepper over, then a layer of crumbs in which a little parsley is mixed. Put some little bits of butter on the crumbs, and bake in a hot oven until the whites are firm. Time, from 10 to 15 minutes.

First cut thick slices of stale bread into rounds with a cutter, and then with a smaller cutter cut half way through, and scoop out the center, leaving a cavity large enough to hold an egg. Toast the bread nicely, butter it, and season with salt and a dash of cayenne pepper. Arrange these pieces of toast on a baking tin, put a raw egg into each cavity, and bake until the eggs are set. Dust a little finely-chopped parsley over each egg, and serve on a dish.







